

# FOCUS



OCTOBER 4, 2007



## SUNY Plattsburgh Establishes Branch Campus

**For more than 20 years, the SUNY Plattsburgh "Extension Center" has** provided the opportunity for students in the Queensbury region to work toward their master's degrees. In 1995, baccalaureate degree course offerings were added. Although this was a great resource, students from the region had to travel to Plattsburgh for a certain number of classes that were not available at the Extension Center in order to complete their degree.

This summer, Governor Eliot Spitzer made official the establishment of a SUNY Plattsburgh Branch Campus at Adirondack Community College, providing a major benefit for the approximately 350 full- and part-time students taking courses at the existing site adjacent to Adirondack Community College. Students will now be able to earn a bachelor's or master's degree without ever having to travel to the main campus in Plattsburgh.

President John Ettling said the designation will provide new opportunities for students in Warren,

Washington and Saratoga counties. "There are many prospective students who want to continue their higher education but cannot afford to travel the 100 plus miles to campus," said Ettling. "This will allow them to take courses at our branch campus from our faculty members or through our distance education offerings."

Many people worked hard to make the branch campus designation a reality, including Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Golden, SUNY Plattsburgh Branch Campus Director Thomas A. Corigliano, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Patricia Higgins, and SUNY Associate Provost for Academic Programming Kathryn VanArnam. New York State Senator Betty Little and Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward also supported the College's proposal.

"I am very pleased with how much we have accomplished here in such a short time and how the programs are growing," said Corigliano. □

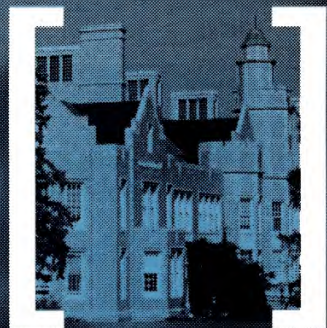
## Play Plattsburghopoly!

**The Plattsburghopoly game is similar to the original Monopoly game** but features local businesses. The money raised by selling the games will be used to benefit Fraternity/Sorority Leadership

Programs. The games are available in the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Life Office, Room 204, in the Angell College Center. The office is open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., and the cost of the game is \$25. □







## FOCUS

### Roll Out the Red Carpet!

Faculty and staff are encouraged to sign-up for the Homecoming 2007 festivities October 11-14. A range of exciting events are planned, including the Sports Hall of Fame Induction; individual class receptions and dinners; departmental open houses for alumni; athletics and alumni games; and fireworks. Homecoming is a great way to reconnect with former students. For more details and information on registering, visit the alumni website – [www.plattsburgh.edu/alumni](http://www.plattsburgh.edu/alumni). □



## Provost Golden Announces Plans to Step Down

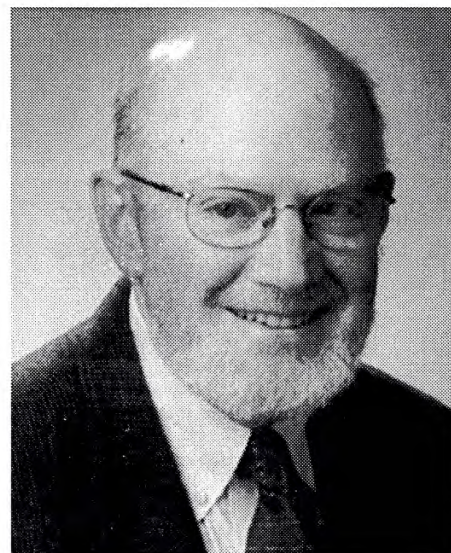
In a letter to the community, President John Ettling announced that this will be the final year that Dr. Robert Golden serves SUNY Plattsburgh as provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"In large part through his quiet, steady leadership, we have emerged from turbulent days to recapture the vitality and optimism that make Plattsburgh State a good place to study and work," Ettling said.

Indeed, Golden's tenure at SUNY Plattsburgh has been successful. He arrived on campus in 2002 from Keene State College where he had served for seven years as vice president for academic affairs. Shortly after he arrived, Dr. Golden organized and led an exercise in long-range campus-wide planning that helped set the course of success that followed.

The goals achieved through Golden's leadership include significant gains in admissions and retention. Golden helped initiate measures that reversed a downward spiral in applications and retention. In each of the last three years, the number of applications grew at double-digit rates. High school grade point averages and SAT scores for incoming freshmen are on the rise, while the College's acceptance rate has fallen from 63% in 2005 to 49% in 2007. At the same time, the College has attracted more out-of-state and international students and more New York students from underrepresented groups. The Office of First Year Programs and Retention Efforts, established two years ago to help first-year students adjust to college life and succeed academically, has reduced the attrition rate between the freshman and sophomore years.

Golden also successfully encouraged the faculty to revitalize the curriculum to develop new programs and to



repackage existing courses into appealing degree options. During his tenure as provost, the College has significantly increased the number of foreign universities with which we have bilateral agreements.

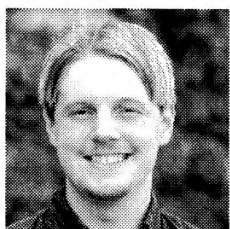
Finally, Golden's idea to turn the Extension Site into an official branch campus was realized; this semester, students in the Glens Falls-Saratoga region are taking courses and pursuing graduate or undergraduate degrees from SUNY Plattsburgh without ever having to travel to the main campus. The new branch campus will be a boon for students in that region and provides an opportunity for the College to broaden its reach and impact.

Golden will step down as Provost at the end of the 2007-08 academic year and will join the faculty ranks, teaching on a part-time basis at the new branch campus.

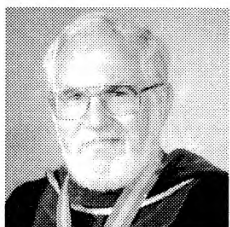
"I have heard it said that nothing of any real value happens on a college campus until a student learns something," concluded Ettling in his letter. "With that in mind, please join me in thanking Bob for all he has done to promote and improve teaching and learning at Plattsburgh State." □



## >> FACULTY AND STAFF SHOWCASE



**Michael Cashman**, coordinator of the Student/Alumni Center for Professional Development, attended the "I Live NY" Summit, held at SUNY Cortland on September 18. The summit convened stakeholders from across the state to discuss the economic, cultural, and educational forces that help create job opportunities, promote entrepreneurship, and develop livable communities.



**Dr. Mark Cohen**, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, received a SUNY "Conversation in the Disciplines" grant to bring together scholars who have various approaches to the problem of why prehistoric mobile foraging populations adopted sedentary agriculture economies - the so-called "Neolithic Revolution." The conference was held on campus, October 4-7.



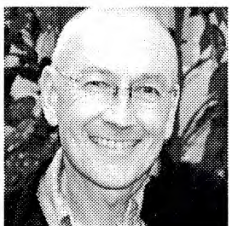
**Dr. Mohamed Djerdjouri**, chair of the department of management and international business, was a panelist at the Higher Education for Development Conference titled, "Synergy in Development: A Decade of Higher Education Collaboration in Development," held in Washington, D.C., August 8-10. Dr. Djerdjouri was a panelist in the roundtable, "Higher Education's Role in National Development," and lead discussant in the roundtable, "Building on the Impacts of Higher Education at the Local and Regional Levels."



**Peter Ensel**, director of the Center for Communication and Journalism and associate professor of communication, was among a select group of educators invited to participate in the International Television and Radio Society's 2007 Business and Diversity Conference. The gathering, underwritten by ABC/Disney was held at the Disney Studios in Burbank, Calif., August 14-16. Participants went behind the scenes of various ABC/Disney Properties and met with executives.

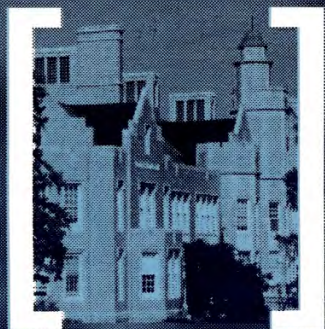


**Dr. J. Justin Gustainis**, professor of communication, had a literary review of Stephen King's *The Stand* reprinted in an online reference work, *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. The review was one of 10 essays chosen on King's work. A new book titled, *Black Magic Woman*, will be published in early 2008 by Solaris Books.



**Mark Holden**, lecturer in English, management and international business, had a comic essay about bowhunting published by *Traditional Bowhunter* magazine, summer 2007. His essay, "Red Queen," published in *Chattahoochee Review* in 2005 and winner of the Lamar York Nonfiction Award, was listed as a notable essay in *Best American Essays 2006*. His short stories, "Columbus Day," and "The Unnecessary Cat," were published by *New Millennium Writings* and *The George Review* respectively. And his story, "Maybe Someone Should Call the Commodores," won second place in the Kurt Vonnegut fiction awards and will be published in *North American Review*.





## FOCUS

### Plattsburgh

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

FOCUS is published eight times per semester by the Office of Public Relations at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh.

**Editor:** Michelle Ouellette

**Art Director:** Paula Trahan '85

**Assistant Editor:** Gerianne Wright

#### Fall 2007 FOCUS Schedule

Oct. 19  
Nov. 2  
Nov. 16  
Nov. 30  
Dec. 14

#### Spring 2008 FOCUS Schedule

Jan. 25  
Feb. 8  
Feb. 22  
March 7  
March 21  
April 4  
April 18  
May 2

To submit a story idea for FOCUS, please email [news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu). Information for inclusion in the "Notebook" section must be received two weeks prior to publication date. (See above fall schedule for dates.)

#### **Institutional Advancement**

Office of Public Relations  
113 Hawkins Hall  
564-2090 • 564-2094 (fax)  
[news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu)

## Psychology Department Wins National Accreditation

**The psychology department was recently notified that it met the requirements to win recognition and accreditation by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). The College was notified that its Master of Arts, Certificate of Advanced Study in School Psychology degree received the highly-sought accreditation.**

"This milestone for our graduate program is the result of a long and meticulous reworking of the classes and policies to conform to national standards," said Dr. Dale Phillips, associate professor of psychology. "NASP accreditation will increase the professional mobility and desirability of graduates from our program."

The National Association of School Psychologists represents and supports school psychology programs to enhance the mental health and educational competence of all children. Their accreditation program sets strict, high-level standards of professionalism, ethical and best practices for school psychologists and the programs that train them.

Dr. John Kelly, president of the New York Association of School Psychologists

(NYASP), had high praise for SUNY Plattsburgh. "The New York Association of School Psychologists would like to congratulate the graduate Program in School Psychology at SUNY Plattsburgh, which has earned conditional approval and accreditation from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)."

According to Phillips, this "gold star" achievement for SUNY Plattsburgh is thanks to the faculty who teach and direct the school psychology program and many people across the College community.

"Although accreditation was a team effort," Phillips said, "particularly instrumental members of the psychology department were Drs. Jeanne Ryan, Bill Gaeddert, and Bill Tooke. In addition, Kathy Lavoie, dean of arts and sciences; David Hill, dean of education, health and human services; and Provost Robert Golden were integral to our success in attaining this recognition. The accreditation is provisional, extending for the next two years, at which time NASP will re-examine the program in consideration of permanent accreditation." □

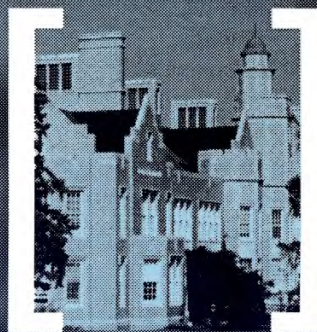
## >> NOTEBOOK

- On October 12, the Music Department will present the 20th annual PRISM Concert, at 8:00 p.m. in the E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium in Hawkins Hall. Students pay \$2, and general admission is \$5. Tickets are available in advance at the Angell College Center Desk or at the door on the night of the performance. For more information call 518-564-2180.
- Alzheimer's Walk 2007, to benefit the Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Center, will be held October 21 at 1:00 p.m. in the Field House. Funds raised remain in our community and assist with services in Clinton, Essex, and Franklin Counties. For more information, visit [www.alzwalk.org](http://www.alzwalk.org) or call 518-564-3370.
- Plattsburgh State Art Museum presents an exhibition of the "Irish Drawings of James Fitzgerald (1965-1971)," now through Nov. 11. The exhibit features an integrated body of work dealing with themes of Irish life and the aesthetic and moral concerns of the artist. This collection was given to the museum in 1991 by Ed and Anne Hubert, New England collectors and art patrons.



# FOCUS

PUBLISHED BY SUNY PLATTSBURGH



OCTOBER 19, 2007

## Campus Implements Alert System

**SUNY Plattsburgh has implemented an emergency alert system** based on the NY-ALERT service created and maintained by the state's Emergency Management Office. The system will "push" information to the entire campus community in response to serious health or safety concerns like fires, missing persons, dangerous individuals on campus, campus closures and class cancellations due to travel conditions.

This is one of many systems SUNY Plattsburgh will use in such emergencies, but it is the only one which will send information directly to individuals, using the addresses they provide. The system will contact people via email, phone and text-messages.

"Signing up only takes a few minutes, but the time spent could one day prove useful to you in the event of an emergency," said Keith Tyo, executive assistant in the President's Office.

Participation is voluntary. Only a single e-mail address is required to

participate. The system and data provided to the system will not be used for any purpose other than notification of serious emergencies on campus.

Everyone is encouraged to enroll through BannerWeb or through the Employee Services Portal. Faculty, students and staff will be asked to re-enroll at the beginning of each semester. This ensures that information will be up-to-date and accurate.

Those who do not have access to the portal or BannerWeb may submit a form to University Police. Individuals affiliated with organizations located on campus will be granted permission in this way. To receive the form, contact the police at 518-564-2022.

The contact information for individuals who sign-up is submitted to the system each Monday after 4 p.m. For those who sign-up after the list is sent, information will be forwarded the following Monday.

For more information, look online at [www.plattsburgh.edu/president/faq/sunynyalert.php](http://www.plattsburgh.edu/president/faq/sunynyalert.php). □



## New Honors Class Takes Its Studies to Nicaragua



**Like many other third-world countries**, Nicaragua has struggled for years to create a system for sustainable development.

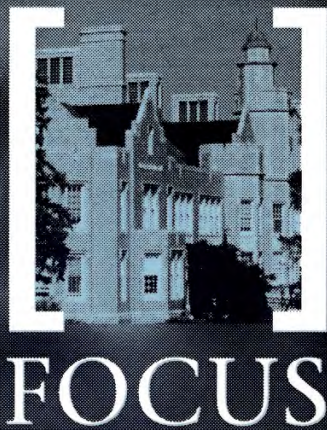
Starting next semester, Dr. Ellen Fitzpatrick will teach a new, four-credit class through SUNY Plattsburgh's Honors Program which

will explore the issues involved in this struggle. "Nicaragua: Politics and Sustainable Development" will offer students a chance to study that country's successes and failures as they learn about the major economic, political and institutional forces that have shaped it. Students will earn three of the four credit hours by actually traveling to Nicaragua, visiting coffee plantations and cooperatives,

exploring different ecological and agricultural niches and seeing first-hand the challenges of sustaining rural communities. They will speak with local and national political leaders about the economic and social problems facing the country. They will also take part in a mini-conference with students from a Nicaraguan university.

For more information, contact the Honors Program at 518-564-3075. □





## "Street Fight" Comes to Campus

**As part of the American Democracy Project**, Marshall Curry's Oscar-nominated film, "Street Fight," will be shown on campus. Free and open to the public, the screening will take place on Thurs., Oct. 25, at 7 p.m. in Yokum Hall, room 202. A discussion will follow.

This Point of View (P.O.V.) film follows the turbulent, racially charged battle for mayor of Newark, N.J., between Cory Booker, a 32-year-old Rhodes Scholar/Yale Law grad and Sharpe James, the four-term incumbent twice his age.

P.O.V. is an award-winning series produced by American Documentary for PBS. Their films have brought powerful documentary storytelling and public dialogue on issues of national importance to a new level. For more information on the series, go to [www.pbs.org/pov](http://www.pbs.org/pov).

This event is sponsored by the American Democracy Project, Mountain Lake PBS, and SUNY Plattsburgh's Student Association, Institute for Ethics in Public Life, Center for Student Involvement and Center for Diversity, Pluralism and Inclusion. □

## PICL Program Helps International Students Feel at Home

**When international students come to our country to learn**, they expect things to be different. They want to see a new place, learn about a new culture and get to know new people. What they often don't bargain for is how much these changes can make them feel intimidated, lonely or homesick.

Partners in Cross-cultural Learning (PICL) is a program that strives to bridge cultural gaps and alleviate some of that culture-shock. It helps to build partnerships and friendships between local community members and new international students.

"This program helps to show international students that there is more to Plattsburgh than what's on campus," said program coordinator Michelle St. Onge. In doing so, it increases their comfort level and helps them complete their studies at the college.

The program looks for adult community members who are responsible, love meeting people, enjoy teaching others about themselves and would welcome regular interactions with an international student. It matches these volunteers with international students who are also open to meeting new people and interested in learning about American culture.

These partners then take part in social events together. They may go out for ice cream, take trips to Lake Placid to sightsee, go fishing or skiing, or watch sporting events together.

They also get to take part in activities planned by PICL. This fall, for example, the program will take the partners apple picking, plan a harvest dinner and provide a mid-night breakfast during finals week.

PICL is not a host program. Volunteers do not need to commit to a number of hours each week. All they have to do is agree to include



someone else in their life once a month, doing some of the things that they would like to do anyway, like taking a coffee break or going to a movie. In doing so, they become that one extra set of eyes, checking to make sure that the international students are doing okay, adjusting well and getting to know our country.

In addition to helping others, PICL volunteers stand to gain a lot from these matches. They learn about other cultures, meet vibrant new young people, and even gain the chance to expose their own children to a different culture and new ways of thinking.

Participants are matched for a year, but if at any point the student or the volunteer feels that the match is not working, it can be discontinued. What happens more often, however, is that both like the match. Sometimes the partners even keep in touch after the student goes back to his or her home country.

Those interested in volunteering may get information by phone at 518-564-3270 or by visiting the Website [www.plattsburgh.edu/international/picl](http://www.plattsburgh.edu/international/picl). □



# "LifeLine" Raises Awareness of Suicide Risk Factors

## College can be a time that some students find difficult to handle.

What happens when students go into a tailspin? What about when a student lapses into a state of confusion or despair?

These are questions that a group of faculty and staff at SUNY Plattsburgh asked when they met this summer to address the issue of suicide. The group sought to be proactive. As the second leading cause of death for American college students, suicide affects the entire college community.

Seeing it as a campus-wide problem, the Mental Health Task Force created a campus-wide solution. One component is the

LifeLine Suicide Prevention Program; its goals include heightening campus awareness and creating a safety net to support those students most at risk.

The program is a collaborative effort between University Police, the Dean of Students Office, Residence Life and the Center for Student Health and Psychological Services.

LifeLine is driven by a new protocol for managing suicidal students. It requires that employees report to University Police all behaviors, which, in their best judgment, constitute a threat to self and others.

Students with founded reports of suicidal behaviors are referred to LifeLine by the Dean of Students.

Once referred, students are given a comprehensive suicide assessment by a licensed mental health professional. The process includes sessions to assess risk and provide recommendations for maintaining safety and finding appropriate interventions.

Those participating in LifeLine believe that the program will promote the safety and well-being of our community.

Students with questions about LifeLine are encouraged to contact the Center for Student Health and Psychological Services at 518-564-3086. General information about suicide is available at [www.suicidology.org](http://www.suicidology.org). □

## >> FACULTY AND STAFF SHOWCASE



**Dr. Nancy Elwess**, associate professor of biology, and **Sandra Latourelle**, adjunct instructor in biology, were named co-recipients of the 2007 Biotechnology Teaching Award by the National Association of Biology Teachers. The award is presented to those that demonstrate to students the importance of biotechnology through innovative presentation of material.



**Dr. Tim Mihuc**, associate professor of earth and environmental science, and **Jeffrey Jones**, instructional support technician and boat captain, presented "Cyanobacteria and the Sixth Great Lake: Community Dynamics of Toxic Algal Blooms in Lake Champlain, USA" at the Botanical Society of America Conference in Chicago. They also presented "A Geospatial Mapping Method to Detect Lake Champlain Cyanobacteria Blooms" at the Societas Internationale Limnologiae, in Montreal, Canada.



**Dr. Tom Moran**, Distinguished Service Professor and director of the Institute for Ethics in Public Life and **Dr. Shakuntala Rao**, associate professor of communications are participating in "Ethics Across the Disciplines," a one-day Conversations Across the Disciplines conference at SUNY Brockport on Friday, Nov. 9.

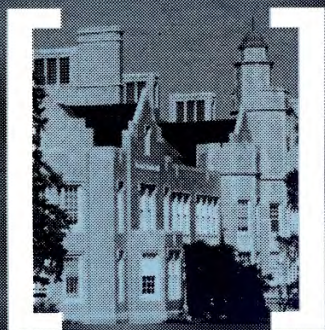


**Dr. Gordon Pollard**, professor of anthropology, and co-author **Haagen Klaus '00** were awarded the Robert M. Vogel Prize for outstanding scholarship in industrial archeology by the Society for Industrial Archeology at the 36th Annual Society for Industrial Archeology Conference. The award honors the author(s) of the best article to appear in the society's journal, *IA*, within the past three years. Their article, "A Large Business: the Clintonville Site, Resources, and Scale at Adirondack Bloomery Forges," appeared in the spring 2006 issue.

**Dr. Denise Simard**, assistant professor of special education, and **Dr. Jean Ann Hunt**, assistant professor of literacy education, attended a conference sponsored by the National Academic Advising Association titled, "Effectively Engaging Faculty in Academic Advising." Participants examined curricular and pedagogical implications of viewing advising as learning, activities to engage and motivate faculty in advising, and more. Their attendance was sponsored by the Academic Advising Office.

To submit an entry for Faculty and Staff Showcase, please send information to [news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu).





# FOCUS

## Plattsburgh

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

FOCUS is published eight times per semester by the Office of Public Relations at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh.

**Editor:** Michelle Ouellette  
**Art Director:** Paula Trahan '85  
**Assistant Editor:** Gerianne Wright

### Fall 2007 FOCUS Schedule

Nov. 2  
 Nov. 16  
 Nov. 30  
 Dec. 14

### Spring 2007 FOCUS Schedule

Jan. 25  
 Feb. 8  
 Feb. 22  
 March 7  
 March 21  
 April 4  
 April 18  
 May 7

To submit a story idea for FOCUS, please email [news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu). Information for inclusion in the "Notebook" section must be received two weeks prior to publication date. (See above fall schedule for dates.)

### Institutional Advancement

Office of Public Relations  
 113 Hawkins Hall  
 518-564-2090 • 518-564-2094 (fax)  
[news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu)

## Faculty Hone their Teaching Skills at Center for Teaching Excellence

**"I am straight out," said Becky Kasper,** director of the new Center for Teaching Excellence, whose weeks have been solidly booked with class visits.

She hands out packets of information, sends e-mails and hits faculty planning days to spread the word about the center and how it can help. The faculty make requests based on their current teaching needs.

Kasper has been amazed at the response. "The fact that the faculty are taking advantage of the services offered here bears witness to their openness and willingness to improve and be as excellent teachers in the class as they possibly can," said Kasper.

Most request classroom visits and an analysis of what they are doing. But there is a whole spectrum of other requested services, from help with syllabi to the discussion of teaching techniques.

The following are some services provided by the center.

- Small Group Analysis: Instructors prepare a list of questions they want answered, and Kasper visits the classroom to conduct small-group discussions to answer those questions.

- Faculty Learning Communities: These will commence next semester. Interested faculty will gather once or twice a month to examine a topic. At the end of the semester, they will produce a summary reflection that might lead to a campus-wide discussion of the issues. Current topics include teaching first-year students; diversity/power in the classroom/classroom climate; and teaching religion.
- Turnitin: The campus has a Turnitin account, piloted during the last academic year, to help faculty detect student plagiarism. Kasper can provide faculty members with a quick overview of how to use the service. Interested faculty members can also visit the Center for Teaching Excellence's website and click on the Turnitin link which will take them to best practices for plagiarism detection services.

Kasper taught for about 17 years and found great joy in it. Now she finds pleasure in helping others have a similar experience. "I relish the opportunity to help other people enjoy the students and to help the students enjoy their classes," said Kasper.

Kasper may be contacted at 518-564-3043 or via email at [kasperrb@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:kasperrb@plattsburgh.edu). □

## >> NOTEBOOK

- Faculty member Daniel Gordon will present the Frontier Saxophone Quartet in a faculty recital on Sunday, Oct. 21 at 3 p.m. in Krinovitz Recital Hall, Hawkins Hall. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call 518-564-2180.
- A "Diversity Enlightenment Session," sponsored by the Center for Diversity, Pluralism and Inclusion, Wednesday, Oct. 24, from noon to 2 p.m. in the Angell College Center Alumni Conference Room. Free and open to the public. For information, call 518-564-5410.
- The Portrait Unveiling Ceremony for Dr. Jeanne Ryan, Monday, Oct. 29, 4:30 p.m. in Feinberg Library. Her portrait will join those of fellow SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professors. This honor recognizes a consistent record of superior performance in teaching, scholarship and professional growth, as well as exceptional service to students, commitment to their intellectual growth and adherence to rigorous academic standards and requirements.



# FOCUS

SUNY PLATTSBURGH FOR THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY



NOVEMBER 2, 2007

## Colleges Sign Transfer Agreement

**SUNY Plattsburgh President John Ettling and Dr. Andrew J. Matonak, president of Hudson Valley Community College**, signed on the dotted line this week, officially confirming a new transfer agreement between the two institutions.

The good faith agreement between the two colleges details how a transfer student from Hudson Valley will receive credit and placement, and what remaining credits and courses will be needed for graduation from SUNY Plattsburgh.

In most cases, students who complete their associate degrees can transfer directly to SUNY Plattsburgh as a junior.

A total of 18 academic programs are included in the agreement.

It affects Hudson Valley Community College students who receive associate degrees in biology, business, fine arts, and social science, ensuring that they will be able to put their credits toward a bachelor's degree in a related field.

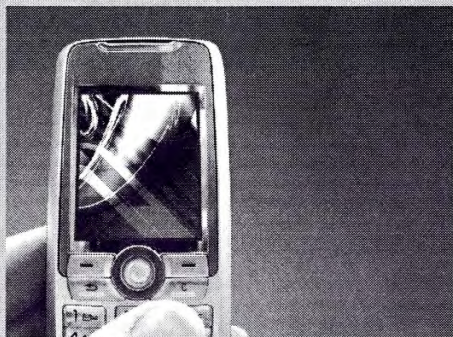
For example, Hudson Community College students who receive associate degrees in biology will be able to apply credits toward bachelor's degrees in biochemistry, biology, ecology or environmental science.

Further agreements are pending between the two colleges for students in environmental studies.

"Hudson Valley is a very important transfer institution for SUNY Plattsburgh," said Provost Robert Golden. "Hudson Valley sends us many highly qualified students who have great success at SUNY Plattsburgh and after they graduate."

"This new agreement opens up opportunities for students who are looking to continue on and earn their bachelor's degree," said Sean Dermody, SUNY Plattsburgh assistant director for transfer admissions. "Transfer students from Hudson Valley can be confident that their hard work will count towards the requirements needed to complete a bachelor's degree at SUNY Plattsburgh. ☐

## Are You on the List? Sign Up for Emergency Alerts



### Most of us enjoy being "in the know."

We like giving our friends the scoop about what's happening on campus and in the world.

But when an emergency strikes, being "in the know" is more important than ever. We need critical information on what is happening and what steps we should take.

SUNY Plattsburgh's emergency alert system will provide that information in a

true emergency to those who sign up for the service. Signing up is free and easy. Just log on to BannerWeb or the Employee Services Portal and follow the simple directions. If you don't have access, contact University Police at 518-564-2022 and ask for a copy of the sign-up sheet.

Enrolling in the system takes just a few minutes but will keep you informed. ☐





## FOCUS



### 'Alice' Comes to Hartman

**The SUNY Plattsburgh Theater Department announces the opening of "Alice,"** an entirely original adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic stories, "Alice in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass."

Written by members of the cast and Director John Shout, professor of theater, this production opens on Wednesday, Nov. 7 and run through Saturday, Nov. 10 in the Hartman Theatre, Myers Fine Arts Building. Curtains open at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission; \$8 for faculty, staff, seniors and students; and \$2 for SUNY Plattsburgh students. Tickets will go on sale at the Angell College Center desk on Oct. 15 and will be available at the door on the night of the performance.

"Alice" is appropriate for all ages. ☐

## Ryan Honored as Distinguished Professor at Unveiling Ceremony

**Intelligent. Productive. Well liked. Unassuming. An unsung hero of the campus.**

Such were the praises given Distinguished Teaching Professor Dr. Jeanne Ryan at her portrait unveiling ceremony this October. Her portrait will now take its place in Feinberg Library among those of others who have earned such honors.

Faculty from SUNY Plattsburgh, like Distinguished Service Professor Thomas Moran, director of the Institute for Ethics in Public Life, lauded Ryan's efforts.

"She has been described by colleagues and students alike as an extraordinary teacher," said Moran. "She is a superb lecturer - relaxed, warm and engaging - who is not the least bit overbearing in conveying her commanding knowledge of her specialty in neuropsychology. It is a field which is technically dense and demanding, and if she were a less skilled teacher, she could easily terrify, rather than excite students as she does.

"But what is further astonishing is the number of students who acknowledge her role in inspiring them to go on to attain advanced degrees. In fact, there are so many of them that Jeanne appears to have done something that usually only occurs at research universities - she has created a network of self-described protégés so extensive it seems analogous to an identifiable 'school of thought,'" said Moran.

Ryan has given numerous presentations on her research into Alzheimer's disease and traumatic brain injury. Her research has had particular significance for doctors and their patients who have suffered brain injuries.

She has also made outstanding contributions to the community through her association with the



Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Center, the North Country Regional Traumatic Brain Injury Center, the Eastern Adirondack Health Care Network, and the Neuropsychology Clinic and Psychoeducational Services program in the college's Department of Psychology. She helped establish the Traumatic Brain Injury Center in 1994, which continues to provide services to children and young adults and technical assistance and education to families, schools, and agencies.

Among the many awards that Ryan has received are the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, Founders Award from the Brain Injury Association of New York State, SUNY Chancellor's Research Recognition Award, Presidential Research Award, and the Faculty Leadership Award. She is a member of several scholarly organizations, such as the International Neuropsychological Society and the Eastern Psychological Association and is involved in community organizations including Special Olympics and Clinton County Head Start.

Dr. Ryan received her bachelor's in psychology from Northeastern University; a Certificate of Advanced Studies and her master's in school psychology from Alfred University; and her Ph.D. in psychology from SUNY Binghamton. ☐



# PrimeLink Shoot Out to Include Student webcast

**The Tenth Annual PrimeLink Great Northern Shoot Out**, a men's Division III ice hockey tournament is coming to campus and bringing with it a unique opportunity for students, the chance to produce a live webcast.

The tournament will be held Nov. 23-24 and will feature teams from SUNY Plattsburgh, Middlebury College, Norwich University, and St. John's University of Minnesota.

Four senior communications and journalism students will broadcast the event live over the Web using PrimeLink technology. The students are Ashley Gela, producer; Eric Hoffman, play-by play announcer;

Sean McCluskey, color analyst; and Colleen Sheehy, between-period host.

Sponsoring the event helps fulfill PrimeLink's mission of giving back to the community, according to CEO Trent Trahan. "The Shoot Out gives us an opportunity to showcase the technology PrimeLink can offer while also enhancing our tournament," said Trahan.

"Not only do our students get an experience they can add to their resumes, but the project embodies what our newly-formed Center for Communication and Journalism represents. That is, the fact that the technologies and disciplines are

converging, and we are at the forefront of that new approach within the SUNY system," said Peter Ensel, director of the Center for Communication and Journalism.

"We are pleased to be working with PrimeLink on this annual tournament," said John Ettling, president of SUNY Plattsburgh. "Just as glad as we are to offer a chance to highlight our talented and dedicated sports teams, this partnership has the added benefit of providing a hands-on learning opportunity for a group of students from our communication and journalism programs."

"It's a great opportunity for everyone involved," said Sheehy. □

## >> FACULTY AND STAFF SHOWCASE



**Dr. Alexis Levitin**, professor of English, visited more than 30 colleges, including the Federal University of Santa Catarina in Brazil, on a translation reading and lecture tour. He translated works from 10 poets for an anthology of Ecuadorian poetry, 18 poems by Brazilian poet Cora Coralina for the literary magazine *Sirena*, a book-length manuscript which will be published as "Cage," 18 poems by Maranhao from his collection "Bloody Sunday" and half of a book-length manuscript of 22 rhymed sonnets about the Hebrew alphabet with Leonor Cabral. Levitin has also co-translated two books, "Notas Para Uma Ficcao Suprema" by William Carlos Williams and "And Other Stories" by Georgi Gospodinov. Additionally, he has had his translations of poems published in 18 journals.



**Dr. Anna Battigelli**, professor of English, served as President of the Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. She chaired two sessions at the society's annual meeting, Oct. 26-28, at Dartmouth College.



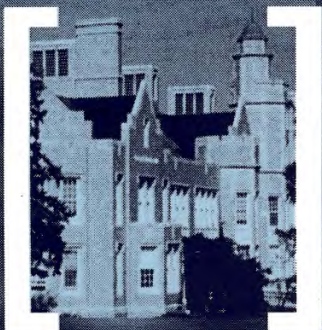
**Dr. Sylvie Beaudreau**, associate professor of history, has been invited to serve on the 2008 Standard Research Grants Committee of the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). This invitation involves peer review of scholars applying for prestigious SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships, and reflects Beaudreau's status as a highly regarded scholar in the field of Canadian history. The 2008 adjudication committee meetings are planned for the week of March. 2 through 8, 2008, and will take place in Ottawa, Canada.



**Dr. Thomas Morrissey**, distinguished teaching professor and chair of the English department, worked with Oscar De Los Santos to co-edit the book "When Genres Collide: Selected Essays from the 37th Annual Meeting of the Science Fiction Research Association." The volume features plenary session reflections from the likes of Norman Spinrad, Nancy Kress, Nalo Hopkinson, R. Garcia y Robertson, William Sleator and Bruce Taylor, as well as conference essays by noted science fiction authors.

*To submit an entry for Faculty and Staff Showcase, please send information to Michelle Ouellette at [news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu).*





# FOCUS

## Plattsburgh

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

FOCUS is published eight times per semester by the Office of Public Relations at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh.

**Editor:** Michelle Ouellette  
**Art Director:** Paula Trahan '85  
**Assistant Editor:** Gerianne Wright

### Fall 2007 FOCUS Schedule

Nov. 16  
 Nov. 30  
 Dec. 14

### Spring 2008 FOCUS Schedule

Jan. 25  
 Feb. 8  
 Feb. 22  
 March 7  
 March 21  
 April 4  
 April 18  
 May 7

To submit a story idea for FOCUS, please email [news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu). Information for inclusion in the "Notebook" section must be received two weeks prior to publication date. (See above fall schedule for dates.)

**Institutional Advancement**  
 Office of Public Relations  
 113 Hawkins Hall  
 564-2090 • 564-2094 (fax)  
[news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu)

## Make Your Mark from Your Heart by Contributing to SEFA

**With the State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA) underway**, employees of SUNY Plattsburgh have until Dec. 7 to make a contribution and make difference in their community.

SEFA is a consolidated campaign, which allows many non-profit organizations at the local, state and international level, to benefit from the generosity of state employees.

Employees have a say in where their money goes. They can select individual or groups of organizations to receive donations. They can also select from various payment options including writing a check, paying with cash or using payroll deductions.

"As a campus, we have a proud history of giving," said Director of First Year Programs Pete Luguri, who felt optimistic about being able to reach the campus' goal of \$52,000, a four percent increase over last year's goal.

Luguri, Keyboard Specialist Cindy Fuller, and Secretary for the Center for Canadian Studies Cherice Granger are the campaign coordinators.

"At SUNY Plattsburgh, we have a great tradition of contributing to the well-being of our community," said College President John Ettling. "The SEFA program affords us yet one more way to make a difference. We encourage everyone to participate in this worthy program." □

## >> NOTEBOOK

• Friday, Nov. 9 - **Choral Concert**, 7:30 p.m., E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium, Hawkins Hall. Free admission.

• Saturday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - **Fall Arts and Crafts Fair**, Field House. Admission is \$2.00; under 13, free.

Monday, Nov. 12 - **Basketball Vacation Day Clinic**, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Memorial Hall. Limited to 50 students, grades three through eight. Call 518-564-4143.

• **International Education Week**. Monday, Nov. 12 - **Night of Nations**, 7-10 p.m., Angell Center Ballroom. Tuesday, Nov. 13 - **Film Screening of "Baraka"**, 7 p.m., room 200, Yokum Hall. Wednesday, Nov. 13 - **Sharing of Rituals**, 6-9 p.m., Newman Center. All events are free and open to the public.

• Thursday, Nov. 15 - **Celebration of Scholarship**, 4 to 5:30 p.m., Feinberg Library, honoring Dr. Anna Battigelli, professor of English; Dr. George Flynn, professor of mathematics and physics; Dr. Edward Lusk, professor of accounting; Dr. Timothy Mihuc, associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Science and Coordinator of the Lake Champlain Research Institute. Free and open to the public.

• Thursday, Nov. 15 - **Reader's Series presents David Pitkin**. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., College Store/Book Nook, and 7 to 8 p.m., Feinberg Library. The historian, social studies teacher, ghost researcher and author will read from his latest work. Free and open to public.

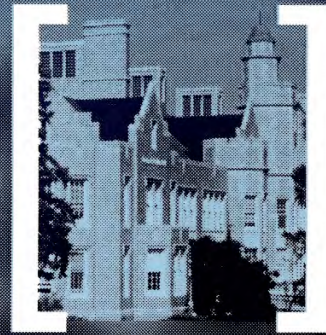
• Thursday, Nov. 15 - **Visual Artist Lecture**, 7:30 p.m., room 202, Yokum Hall. Claire Sherwood, sculptor and performance artist, will speak. Free and open to the public.

• Thursday, Nov. 15 - **Symphonic Band Concert**, 7:30 p.m., E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium, Hawkins Hall. Free and open to public.



# FOCUS

PUBLISHED BY SUNY PLATTSBURGH — — LL



NOVEMBER 16, 2007

## SUNY Plattsburgh, Concordia University Sign MBA Agreement

**Setting down her pen, Dr. Louise Dandurand, interim provost at Concordia University** proclaimed, "We hope this is just the first of many agreements that we have with SUNY Plattsburgh. It is a great day for us and our two programs."

There was a round of applause as the agreement between the two institutions was formalized. It marked the beginning of a program that will provide cross-border educational opportunities for Plattsburgh State graduates who wish to pursue a master's in business administration (MBA).

"I've been looking forward to this moment for a long time," said SUNY Plattsburgh President John Ettling, at the Nov. 7 ceremony, "We don't see a market for a stand-alone master's in business administration program at SUNY Plattsburgh, so the next best thing is to partner with one of the

best MBA programs in the world at Concordia University."

The new articulation agreement spells out the details for allowing qualified SUNY Plattsburgh graduates who earn a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies with a concentration in leadership to enroll in the MBA program at Concordia University. Graduates of the Plattsburgh program, with additional business experience, now can complete the requirements for a Concordia MBA in as little as a year.

"We think this agreement will attract quality students who want to take advantage of this unique relationship. In addition, the agreement demonstrates the mutual respect that both institutions have for their business curriculums and the rigor of their respective programs," said Dr. Colin Read, dean of the School of Business and Economics at SUNY Plattsburgh. □

## Community to Explore Impact of 9/11 on Education

**The events of 9/11 changed our world in numerous ways.** They had major repercussions in terms of our security, our politics and our world view.

This spring a new faculty learning community will set out to explore

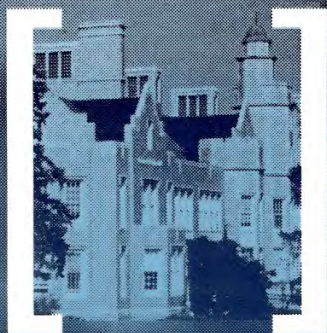


whether those events also had repercussions in our classrooms. Titled "Teaching and Learning After 9/11," this community will look at the issue through two books, Susan Faludi's "The Terror Dream: Fear and Fantasy in Post 9/11 America" and Henry Giroux's "The University in Chains: Confronting the Military-Industrial-Academic Complex."

Dr. Becky Kasper, director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, is organizing two other learning communities for next semester: "Teaching First Year Students" and "The Classroom Dynamic: Issues of Diversity, Power and Engagement."

Those interested in joining should contact Kasper at 518-564-3043 soon, so she can make arrangements. □





## FOCUS

### Van Safety Classes Announced

**For those who need to drive a college van**, now is the time to sign up for classes.

All drivers must take two separate courses prior to operating a 15-passenger van.

The first is a three-hour lesson that takes place in the Maintenance and Operations Conference Room of the service building. This class will be offered on Wednesday, Nov. 28 and on Tuesday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 4 p.m. both days. To register, call Gina Doty at 518-564-5011.

The second class is a 1.5-hour hands-on training. Those wishing to sign up for this may go to the Angell College Center Help Desk and ask for the purple folder with the dates and times or call 518-564-2121 to find out the schedule.

In addition to the classes, all participants need to have authorization under the Driver's Safety Review and Authorization Policy, which includes the License Event Notification System (LENS). Applications for this are available from department chairs or the University Police at 518-564-2022. ☐

## Plattsburgh Undergrads Take Top Prize at Research Conference

**Two undergraduate researchers from SUNY Plattsburgh** won top honors at the 2007 Sigma Xi Student Research Conference.

Melissa Kopp, a senior in biochemistry, and Nishank Bhalla, a sophomore in biology, competed against more than 300 students from the 92 universities and colleges represented at the international scientific honor society's event.

Kopp won the top prize in the Cellular and Molecular Biology Division; Bhalla, the Interdisciplinary Division.

The two submitted projects based on their work with ancient Mayan skeletons, conducted under the supervision of Associate Professor Dr. Nancy Elwess and Adjunct Lecturer Sandra Latourelle.

The college is home to the world's largest collection of these skeletons, excavated over the years by Distinguished Professor Mark Cohen, Ph.D.

SUNY Plattsburgh is also one of the few colleges that has a DNA sequencer. Access to both the skeletons and the sequencer opens up the door to a wide range of significant research possibilities for Plattsburgh's undergraduates.

Bhalla and Kopp, for instance, have been taking part in a type of research that has only been done a few times before and that has never been done by undergraduates. They have been working with DNA extracted from the teeth of the Mayan skeletons.

They amplify the DNA, increasing the sample, so that they can sequence it and determine the Mayans' ancestry.

The two are specifically looking to see if any of the Mayans' ancestors came from the Old World. This is important because the Mayans appear to have suffered from Beta thalassemia, a genetic disorder that prevents the blood from carrying enough oxygen.



Beta thalassemia was thought to have been brought to the New World by the Spanish, but Kopp and Bhalla are finding that this may not be true. So far the genes of the skeletons they are synthesizing appear to be purely Mayan. If this is case, the disorder may have been present in the New World before arrival of the Spanish.

The researchers at SUNY Plattsburgh are not able to make that claim yet, however. There is still much work to be done, according to Bhalla.

"We are still in the troubleshooting phase," he said.

In the meantime, the two are learning a great deal and forging new paths and benefitting from the self-directed approach the instructors have taken with them.

"I honestly think this has been one of the best experiences of my life," said Kopp who is a fan of SUNY Plattsburgh's science department. "A lot of students don't realize that there are these opportunities and you can excel in research here."

"The project has been a most amazing experience, in terms of learning so much more and actually discovering something new for the first time," said Bhalla. ☐



## >> FACULTY AND STAFF SHOWCASE



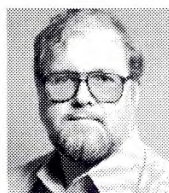
SUNY Distinguished Professor of Anthropology **Dr. Mark Cohen** and Anthropology Lecturer **Gillian Crane-Kramer** have published the book "Ancient Health," a compendium of studies of prehistoric health trends read through skeletal remains.



SUNY Distinguished Service Professor of Counselor Education **Dr. Richard Schnell**, LMHC, CCMHC, NCC, MAC, director of the Counseling Services Clinic, was re-elected vice-chairperson of New York State's Board for Mental Health Practitioners. Earlier this year, Dr. Schnell, '71, G'72, coordinator of the Counselor Educator's Mental Health Counseling Program, was also appointed to represent New York State on the American Association of State Counseling Boards.



**Dr. Jonathan Slater**, associate professor for communication, led a master class on "PR Ethics for Students and Recent Graduates," at the Northeast Regional Conference of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), in Rochester, NY, this October. He was joined by Professor Ginni Jurkowski of SUNY Geneseo and Professor Deborah Silverman of Buffalo State College. Slater also attended PRSA 2007 International Conference in Philadelphia, where he conducted a scholar-to-scholar session on "Identifying Best Practices in Public Relations Service Learning," as part of a workshop sponsored by the PRSA's Educators Academy. He co-led the session with Professor Carolyn White Bartoo of Widener University.



Professor of Communication **Dr. Justin Gustainis's** forthcoming novel, "Black Magic Woman," has been chosen by Britain's largest bookstore chain, Waterstone's, as their featured science fiction/fantasy selection for January 2008. The book will be given a special display in all of the chain's 328 stores across the UK and will receive advertising as well.



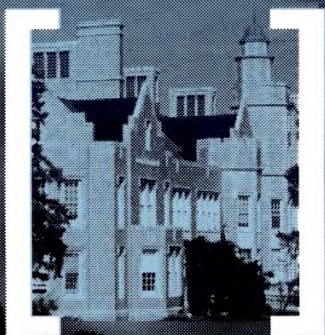
Women's Hockey Coach **Kevin Houle** was recently interviewed by freelance writer Mike Scandura for a feature that has been posted on the Website of USA Hockey. The feature profile is also expected to appear in an upcoming issue of USA Hockey Magazine. Coach Houle is also an assistant coach with the U.S. National Team that competed at the Women's Four Nations Cup in Leksand, Sweden.



This spring, **Dr. Rick Davies**, assistant professor of music, traveled to Trinidad and Tobago for their carnival and to Oaxaca, Mexico. He presented at the University of West Indies in Trinidad and did research in their extensive calypso and soca archives. He performed with the Trinidad and Tobago Police Band at the Calypso Fiesta, behind legendary calypso singers competing for the title of Calypso Monarch, an event televised throughout the Caribbean. Davies also attended the 11th Annual Encuentro De Los Pueblos Negros conference in Juchitán, Mexico, which focused on the political, cultural, and artistic aspects of the Afro-Meztizo culture of Costa Chica. In Oaxaca, Davies put together a Mexican version of his group Jazzismo, which performed his original music. Videos are available on youtube.com, including the song "Rosa Primavera," composed by Davies with lyrics by Dr. Fernando Iturburu of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature.

*To submit an entry for Faculty and Staff Showcase, please send information to Michelle Ouellette at [news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu).*





# FOCUS

## Plattsburgh

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

FOCUS is published eight times per semester by the Office of Public Relations at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh.

**Editor:** Michelle Ouellette

**Art Director:** Paula Trahan '85

**Assistant Editor:** Gerianne Wright

### Fall 2007 FOCUS Schedule

Nov. 30

Dec. 14

### Spring 2008 FOCUS Schedule

Jan. 25

Feb. 8

Feb. 22

March 7

March 21

April 4

April 18

May 7

To submit a story idea for FOCUS, please email [news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu). Information for inclusion in the "Notebook" section must be received two weeks prior to publication date. See above fall schedule for dates.

### **Institutional Advancement**

Office of Public Relations  
113 Hawkins Hall  
564-2090 • 564-2094 (fax)  
[news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu)

## Help Spread the Word: Resident Assistants Needed

If you know of students with outstanding people skills, pass the word along that the Office of Housing and Residence Life is looking for Resident Assistants (RAs).

Applications for the 2007-08 academic year will be available at the Angell College Center Desk and the Office of Housing and Residence Life, beginning Thursday, Nov. 29.

Applicants must be full-time students who will be enrolled for that entire academic year and who have achieved at least a 2.75 cumulative grade point average, effective January 2007.

RAs receive approximately \$7,000 per academic year through remunerations of room and board credit.

Interested students may also attend an information session on Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 9 p.m. in the first floor lounge of Whiteface Hall or Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 9 p.m. in Mason Hall's first floor lounge.

The application deadline is noon, Friday, Feb. 15, 2008. Applications must be filed at the Office of Housing and Residence Life. For further information, contact Assistant Director Michael Baumgardner. □

## >> NOTEBOOK

- Guitar Festival: Vihuela & Lute Lecture, Friday, Nov. 16, at 2 p.m.; Composing for Guitar, Friday, Nov. 16, at 3 p.m.; Guitar Concert, Saturday, Nov. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Events are in Krinovitz Hall and are free and open to the public. Seating is limited.
- The "Nutcracker," by the North Country Ballet Ensemble, Friday, Nov. 23 and Saturday, Nov. 24, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., both days, Hartman Theatre, Meyers Fine Arts. Tickets available at the North Country Cultural Center on Brinkerhoff, Alan's Party Supply and White Pine Designs in Saranac Lake.
- PrimeLink Great Northern Shoot Out Hockey Tournament, Friday, Nov. 23 and Saturday, Nov. 24, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on both nights, Ronald B. Stafford Ice Arena. Live webcast at [www.primelink1.com](http://www.primelink1.com).
- Enter the Haggis in Concert, Monday, Nov. 26, 8 p.m., Warren Ballroom, Angell College Center. Tickets at Angell College Center Desk. \$10 general. \$3 students.
- Chamber Ensembles Concert, Tuesday, Nov. 27, 7:30 p.m., E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium. This free event features the college's Brass Ensemble, Clarinet Choir, Flute Ensemble, and Saxophone Ensemble.
- Sinfonia Chamber Ensembles Concert, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m., E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium, Hawkins Hall. Elizabeth Gorevic directs at this free concert.
- Women's Studies Forum: Immigration Reform Activism and the Minutemen of Arizona, Thursday, Nov. 29, 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., Cardinal Lounge, Angell College Center. Connie Oxford, associate professor, will discuss research on right-wing anti-immigration groups along the southern U.S. border. Free.
- Silent Art Auction Featuring the Work of SUNY Plattsburgh Art Students, Thursday, Nov. 29, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Myers Fine Arts Lobby. To benefit SUNY Plattsburgh's sculpture garden. Refreshments and music. Free. Contact Diane Fine at 518-564-2461
- Jazz Concert, Friday, Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m., E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium. Dr. Rick Davies directs the Jazz Ensemble and Contemporary Jazz Combo. Free event.

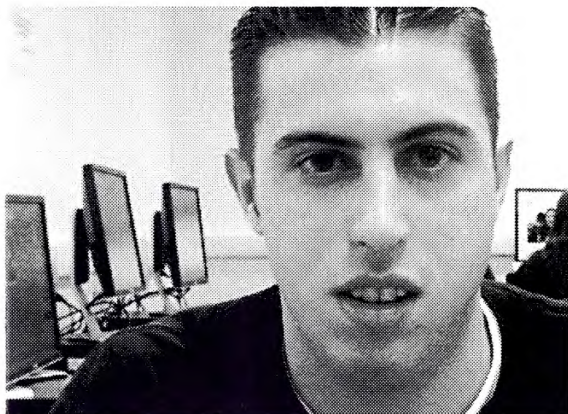


# FOCUS

PUBLISHED BY SUNY PLATTSBURGH



NOVEMBER 30, 2007



## SUNY Plattsburgh Students Win Honors at Broadcasting Competition

**Eleven SUNY Plattsburgh communications students** walked away with awards from the 2007 Regional National Broadcasting Society (NBS) Competition.

Among the schools receiving awards, SUNY Plattsburgh figured prominently, winning seven awards in six categories.

Tim Clukey, associate professor of communication, was proud of the undergraduates. "I enjoy watching the students getting energized when they realize that I'm not making my courses/projects challenging just for fun--that the hard work they put in actually pays off," said Clukey.

WQKE's radio drama, "At the World's End," produced by Brett Lapolito, Paul Secour and Tusi Esera took first place in the Audio Drama category. Lapolito and Esera teamed up with Joe Riccardi to produce another first place winner in the Audio Comedy Program category, "Super Marty Brothers."

In the Video Comedy Segment division, "The Last Supper," a cartoon parody by digital media production student Robert Chase (pictured left) took first place. Chase also captured an honorable mention in the Movie Trailer category with the trailer, "Murder on Sesame Street."

"AJ and Friends," earned TV-video production students Dave Dickinson, Paul Secor and Sivan Geyra an honorable mention in the Video Program Opener category.

Jeremy Mathesen, Anthony Munderville and Shean Peratikos, audio/radio production students won an honorable mention in the Audio Promo, Public Service Announcement (PSA), or Commercial category for "Emergency Contraception Services."

Finally, Munderville and audio/radio production student Tony Gabriel received an honorable mention for the "Fourth and Long Show," a radio ad. □

## International Haiku Poetry Festival Coming to Campus

**The International Haiku Poetry Festival is coming to North America** for the first time ever and will be on campus, July 29 through Aug. 2, 2008.

Sponsored by SUNY Plattsburgh, the World Haiku Club, and the Lake



Champlain-Adirondack Haiku Society, the event will utilize "Ba" or "place" for an organizing theme. It will retrace a journey that Thoreau took to Burlington, Plattsburgh and Montreal as it celebrates the aesthetics of our region.

The keynote speaker will be Arthur Sze (pictured left), a well-known poet, who has written eight books

and has been poet laureate of Sante Fe. Also featured will be Gabriel Rosenstock, an Irish poet who is the author/translator of more than 100 books, including a number in Gaelic, and John Stevenson, former president of the Haiku Society of America, and editor of the society's journal Frogpond.

For more information, call Dr. Rich Schnell at 518-564-4167. □





## FOCUS

### Violence Prevention Experts to Speak

**On Thursday, Dec. 20, Drs. John Nicoletti and Kym Baum** will speak on "Workplace Violence Assessment and Prevention," 8:30 to 10 a.m. in the Warren Ballroom, Angell College Center.

The training will cover techniques for the detection and interruption of violence rehearsals and other red flag behaviors.

Nicoletti, a police psychologist for more than 25 years, is co-founder of Nicoletti-Flater Associates, a private practice in the field of violence and violence prevention. It consults with corporations and agencies, like United Airlines, NASA, and the Department of Energy. The firm has also helped in the aftermath of crises like the Columbine massacre.

A police psychologist, Baum specializes in high-stress occupations and violence. She consults with corporations, government agencies and schools about workplace, school and college violence, critical incident trauma debriefing, and verbal de-escalation. She also conducts threat and violence risk assessments. ☐

### Speech and Hearing Center Helps Stroke Victim Recover Gift of Gab

**Barbara McRae had the gift of gab.**

The former director of the Child Development Center at the Plattsburgh Air Force Base had always been known as a lively, talkative person.

In 2006, however, a stroke ended her way with words. Now she has difficulty forming and retrieving them.

Fortunately, for McRae and others like her, the Speech and Hearing Center at SUNY Plattsburgh is there to help.

McRae has been attending sessions at the clinic for two semesters now. She currently works with Emily Tuthill, a graduate student in the speech and hearing program. Tuthill works with her using tools like semantic feature cards.

"I provide the card, and she has to provide six different features," said Tuthill. This helps McRae by stimulating her recollection of words. "She's gotten a lot better at this over the last couple of weeks," added Tuthill.

Tuthill has also been helping McRae work on verbal greetings. They will continue to work on this task as it is difficult for McRae.

In addition, Tuthill and others at the center are helping McRae with a computer that has a special voice output device. She can use it to articulate some of the ideas that she can no longer express verbally.

McRae, who uses the clinic to supplement the speech therapy she is already getting, said that the center is helping her "speaking language."

She enjoys her time there. She especially loves working with the college students. "Everybody is wonderful," said McRae.

"The clinic is such a great asset to students and patients," said Barbara Peacock, McRae's daughter, who hates to see the center under utilized when her own family has benefited so much from it.

The clinic is open to people of all ages who have communication



difficulties. It works with children who have a variety of issues, from those with problems forming sounds, to those with complex syntax issues, to those who have autism or other developmental disabilities, to those who have issues with fluency or stuttering. The center also helps stroke patients, people who need rehabilitation after being fitted with devices like hearing aids, and even international students who are trying to improve their English accent.

In addition, the clinic sees people who need help with hearing, providing them with audiological services.

Anyone can receive clinic services. There are no special criteria to do so.

Sessions are run by graduate students and seniors who are supervised by members of the faculty. They use cameras and mirrors so that faculty, other students and the families of clients can see the services provided.

According to Peacock, having the opportunity to watch through the mirror has made a difference to her family. "It helped us understand our responsibility to mom and what she's learning."

"It's been a great experience," said Peacock. "It's helped my mother's ability to connect words, making us understand what's in her head."

For more information on the center, call 518-564-2170. ☐



## >> FACULTY AND STAFF SHOWCASE



**Dr. Monica Ciobanu**, assistant professor in sociology and criminal justice, has published the article "Romania's Travails with Democracy and Accession to the European Union," in the December issue of the Europe-Asia Studies journal. She also presented a paper on transitional justice in Eastern Europe at the conference Dream Factory of Communism: Culture, Practices and the Memory of Cold War organized by the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies at Miami University in Ohio.



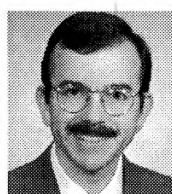
**Tim Clukey**, associate professor of communication, recently had an article titled "Taking it to the Top: A short Survey of Top Level Domain Options," published in the November issue of the online magazine, Web Design & Review. The article may be read at [www.graphic-design.com/Web/top\\_level\\_domains.html](http://www.graphic-design.com/Web/top_level_domains.html).



**Dr. Nancy Elwess**, associate professor of biology, was the 2008-2009 winner of the Society for College Science Teachers (SCST) Outstanding Undergraduate Science Teacher Award. Elwess was recognized for her research and publication record, as well as her service background, including work with local high school teachers and students. She was also noted for a teaching program which incorporates inquiry based lab activities, mostly funded through grants she wrote.



This November, **Dr. Faten Moussa**, professor of management and international business, presented a paper, "The Effects of Monetary Incentive Types, Goal Instructions, and Gender on Demoralization: A Laboratory Experiment," in Nashville, Tennessee at the Southern Management Association, a regional division of the Academy of Management. This paper is published in the proceedings of this conference. Dr. Moussa also served as a discussant for "Organizational Behavior in Cyberspace: Tele-work, Cyber-loafing, and E-Mentoring," a session at the event.



Two book chapters by **Dr. Mark P. Richard**, associate professor of history and Canadian studies, have recently been published. "Negotiating Ethnic Identity: St. Jean-Baptiste Day Celebrations in Francophone Lewiston, Maine" appears in "Voyages: A Maine Franco-American Reader," published by Tilbury House and the University of Southern Maine Franco-American Heritage Collection. "Canadian History in North American Context," co-authored with John Herd Thompson, appears in "Canadian Studies in the New Millennium," published by the University of Toronto Press.



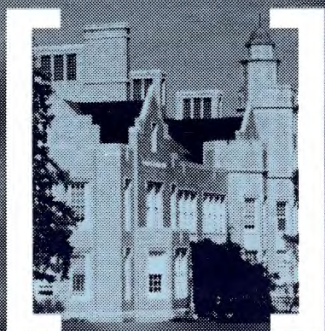
Adjunct Lecturer of Music **Kris Waid-Jones's** sculpture, Acts of Sampson, has been accepted in a juried show in Portsmouth, Virginia. The show runs from February to October 2008.



This spring, **Dr. Meiyin Wu**, associate professor of earth and environmental science, was invited to speak on wetland destruction, loss and restoration at the "International Symposium on Modern Ecology," at Inner Mongolia, sponsored by the Chinese National Science Foundation. She also attended an international conference, EcoSummit 2007, at Beijing China and gave a talk titled "A Community-based Partnership for Invasive Plants Management in the Adirondack Park, New York, USA." In addition, she had a referred article "Laboratory Investigation on Effects of Ultrasonic Control of Water Chestnut" published in the July 2007 issue of Journal of Aquatic Plant Management.

*To submit an entry for Faculty and Staff Showcase, please send information to Michelle Ouellette at [news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu).*





# FOCUS

## Plattsburgh

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

FOCUS is published eight times per semester by the Office of Public Relations at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh.

**Editor and Layout:** Michelle Ouellette  
**Assistant Editor:** Gerianne Wright

Fall 2007 FOCUS Schedule  
 Dec. 14

Spring 2008 FOCUS Schedule  
 Jan. 25  
 Feb. 8  
 Feb. 22  
 March 7  
 March 21  
 April 4  
 April 18  
 May 7

To submit a story idea for FOCUS, please email [news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu). Information for inclusion in the "Notebook" section must be received two weeks prior to publication date. See above fall schedule for dates.

**Institutional Advancement**  
 Office of Public Relations  
 113 Hawkins Hall  
 564-2090 • 564-2094 (fax)  
[news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu)

## College Celebrates Scholarship

### The Celebration of Scholarship at Feinberg Library this November

honored the faculty's research, scholarship and creative works.

It acknowledged the work of all Plattsburgh faculty, showcasing an impressive list of achievements. It also made special note of the efforts of Dr. Anna F. Battigelli, professor of English; Dr. George J. Flynn, professor of math and physics; Dr. Edward J. Lusk, professor of accounting; and Dr. Timothy Mihuc, associate professor of earth and environmental sciences and coordinator of the Lake Champlain Research Institute.

Among their other achievements, Battigelli has served as president of the Northeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and has written a book that was selected as a Choice Outstanding Title; Flynn has worked extensively with NASA and was leader of a team examining samples from the comet Wild 2; Lusk has published more than 150 articles in peer-reviewed journals; Mihuc has researched the ecology of locations in Colorado, Yellowstone Park, the Atchafalaya River Basin, the upper Mississippi River Basin, and Lake Champlain. □

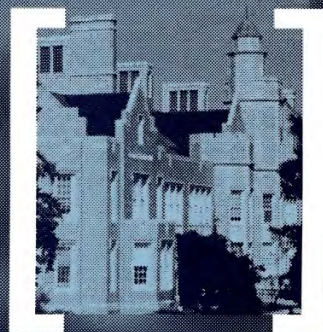
## >> NOTEBOOK

- The Plattsburgh State Gospel Choir presents "A Soulful Christmas Celebration," Sunday, Dec. 2, 4:30 p.m., E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium, Hawkins Hall. Doors open at 4 p.m. Advanced tickets are \$10 and \$3 for students. Tickets at the door will be \$10 and \$5 for students. Free to children ages 5 and under. For more information, call (518) 563-1604.
- Blood Drive, Tuesday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Alumni Conference Room, Angell College Center, Sponsored by Plattsburgh Student Service Corps.
- "Productivity Growth and Economic Reform: Evidence from Rwanda," lecture by Neil Duffy, Tuesday, Dec. 4, Noon to 1:15 p.m., Mowry Conference Room, Reday Hall. Sponsored by the School of Business and Economics.
- Guitar Concert, Wednesday, Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m., Krinovitz Recital Hall, Hawkins Hall. Adjunct Lecturer Michael Angelo Fratino, director. Free admission, but tickets required. Pick up tickets at Angell College Center Desk. Arrive early. Limited seating.
- Ringing Down the Curtain, Wednesday, Dec. 5 and Thursday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m., Hartman Theatre, Myers Fine Arts. Free. Students from dance and acting classes perform their best works of the semester.
- 14th Annual Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders, Thursday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Angell College Center. Open to professionals, paraprofessionals, caregivers and students. The cost is \$50 for professionals, \$40 for caregivers, and \$20 for students. To register, call Kate Chilton at 518-564-3054. For more information, call Kenna LaPorte at 518-564-3370
- Champlain Valley Oratorio Society & SUNY Plattsburgh Choral Union Concert, Sunday, Dec. 9, 3 p.m., E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium, Hawkins Hall. Associate Professor and Chair of the Music Department Jo Ellen Miano directs. Tickets available through society members and the Center for the Arts on Brinkerhoff St. SUNY Plattsburgh student tickets available at Angell College Center Desk only.
- Public Skating, 1:30 to 2:45 p.m., Field House, Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9, 16, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29 and 30. \$2 for the public and \$1 for Plattsburgh State students, faculty and staff. Skate rentals available.



# FOCUS

PUBLISHED BY SUNY PLATTSBURGH



DECEMBER 15, 2007



## FCC Grant to Enhance Telemedicine in the North Country

**A consortium being coordinated by the Technical Assistance Center (TAC)** at SUNY Plattsburgh was notified in late November that it will receive a \$7.6 million grant to improve telemedicine services in the North Country.

The consortium of non-profit rural and urban health care providers in Clinton, Essex and Franklin counties, named The Adirondack - Champlain Telemedicine Information Network (ACTION), will receive the grant to build a fiber optic network connecting medical centers, hospitals, a community health center, two community colleges and SUNY Plattsburgh.

The grant is part of an initiative by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to increase access to acute, primary and preventive health care in rural America. Telemedicine services provide patients in rural areas with access to specialists in a variety of practices, including

cardiology, pediatrics, and radiology.

"Realizing this award is due to the vision of the ACTION consortium members, who were willing to commit matching resources for a competitive application," said Howard Lowe, director of economic development for the TAC.

The Research Foundation of SUNY served as the fiscal agent for the grant in cooperation with the CVPB Medical Center, the designated lead eligible entity. The other ACTION members are Alice Hyde Medical Center, Adirondack Medical Center, Elizabethtown Community Hospital, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Health Center, Clinton Community College, North Country Community College, and SUNY Plattsburgh.

The grant is also a shot in the arm for the TAC-coordinated CBN Connect project, which seeks to expand broadband services in the North Country. □

*"Realizing this award is due to the vision of the ACTION consortium members, who were willing to commit matching resources for a competitive application."*

— Howard Lowe  
Director of Economic Development  
Technical Assistance Center

## Lowe Named to State's Council for Universal Broadband

**Howard Lowe, director of the college's Technical Assistance Center,** was selected by Gov. Eliot Spitzer to take a position on the state's Council for Universal Broadband.

This new council is charged with



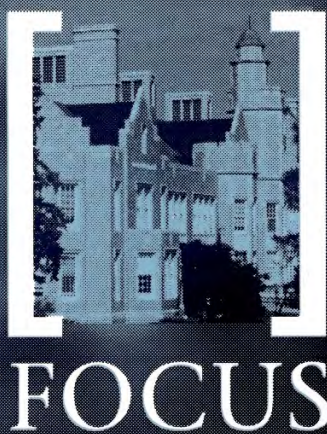
bringing high speed Internet access to all New Yorkers in an effort to create jobs; enhance social, cultural and educational opportunities; and attract and retain the next generation of workers.

"We must implement a strategy that leads to every New Yorker having access to affordable, high-speed Internet so that they may take

advantage of the economic, social and cultural opportunities it provides," said Gov. Spitzer in a press release.

On the council, Lowe will join many state officials, including heads of the Association of Counties, the Conference of Mayors, and the departments of Social Services, Labor, Education, Agriculture and Markets, and Correctional Services. □





## Future Principals Aided by NYS PTA

In an effort to better prepare future principals, members of the New York State Parent Teacher Association (NYS PTA) recently visited an education administration class at the SUNY Plattsburgh Branch Campus at Adirondack Community College (ACC).

All public schools now have to follow strict standards for parent-teacher interactions under the federal No Child Left Behind law. To help future principals meet these goals, the NYS PTA spoke about how to build a positive working relationship with parents and the community. PTA advocacy, membership fiduciary responsibility, and resources provided by the PTA for students, teachers, and schools were also discussed.

Dr. Brian Howard, an adjunct professor and the Queensbury Union Free School district superintendent of schools, organized the first event of this type at the branch campus, which Steve Black, program coordinator/director for ACC, hopes will be the first of many. □

--Ashlie Doran

## FIPSE Grant Brings International Students to Campus

**Fourteen exchange students will arrive on campus next semester,** through a North American Mobility Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) grant. Seven will hail from Canada; the rest, from Mexico.

Titled "Strategic Market Expansion in the NAFTA Nations" and directed by Distinguished Service Professor Dr. Nancy Church, this program also provides opportunities for Plattsburgh State students to study in Canada and Mexico. Its goal is to develop business graduates who can recognize, evaluate and utilize cross-border business opportunities.

Five colleges, two in Canada, two in Mexico and one in Colorado, join SUNY Plattsburgh in this venture. These consortium members take turns hosting students.

As part of the program, Capilano College, in Vancouver, British Columbia, recently hosted a symposium



for all six partner institutions. Five members of the School of Business and Economics faculty, Dr. Church, Dr. Mohamed Gaber, Dr. Lise Héroux, Dr. Mohamed Djerdjouri, and Dr. James Csipak, attended the event.

In addition to workshops and presentations, the college hosted a reception with special honored guest, the Premier of the Province of British Columbia, Gordon Campbell. (See photo of Church, Premier Gordon Campbell, and Vice President Catherine Vertesi, Capilano College project director.) □

## Winter Session Benefits Students and College

**Winter Session at SUNY Plattsburgh offers a wealth of learning opportunities for students.**

For the second consecutive year, the college is "guaranteeing" its winter session courses. SUNY Plattsburgh is currently the only college in the SUNY system that offers guaranteed winter courses. This unique selling point seemed to make an impact last year when winter enrollment reached a record-high 528 students. The increasing demand prompted the college to offer more general education, online, and upper-level courses.

Students who participate in winter session take advantage of the opportunity to graduate early or on time, reduce their course load, or increase their

grade point average. Students enjoy attending small classes, earning credits in a short amount of time, and having the ability to focus all of their energy into one course.

Online courses make it more convenient for students to enroll in winter session as they can earn credit from home. Demand for online courses continues to be high as fourteen of the sixteen online courses offered this winter are fully enrolled.

The five-week online session will run from Dec. 17 to Jan. 18 and the on-campus session will be held from Jan. 2 to 20. The deadline to sign up for Winter Session is December 30. For more information, visit [www.plattsburgh.edu/winter](http://www.plattsburgh.edu/winter). □



# Diane K. Merkel Named Assistant to the Provost

**Diane K. Merkel has been appointed to the position of assistant to the provost at SUNY Plattsburgh,**



where she will be responsible for the coordination and development of quality academic programs and services, ensuring that they meet the needs of today's students. Her duties will also include budgetary and personnel matters.

Merkel has a degree in accounting and 30 years experience in financial management and human resources.

She also has eight years of experience in handling labor relations.

She comes to SUNY Plattsburgh from Clinton Community College (CCC) where she has been a senior staff member and served on the President's Cabinet and on the Strategic Planning Committee. Her most recent job title was that of affirmative action officer. She has also served as the bursar, the assistant to the dean for administration/business affairs and the bookkeeper/treasurer at the college.

In addition to her work with CCC, Merkel has experience as a controller for a department store and as an auditor for two large public accounting firms.

She is a member of several human resource associations and the chairperson of Behavioral Health Services North's Board of Directors.

"Diane Merkel has extensive experience in higher education, budgeting and human resources," said Provost Robert Golden. "She has exactly the background we need for the position of assistant to the provost, and I look forward to her joining the provost's office in January."

"I'm delighted," said Merkel, "and I'm looking forward to working with Dr. Golden and the members of the administration, faculty, and staff at SUNY Plattsburgh." □

## >> FACULTY AND STAFF SHOWCASE



**Dr. James Csipak** and **Dr. Lise Héroux's** 2007 paper, "A Comparison of Tourism Bureau Websites in Africa: An Exploratory Study," won an award for Best English Paper at the Administrative Services Association of Canada, Tourism, Hospitality and Sports Management Division in Ottawa, Canada this June. James Csipak and fellow authors Marc-Antoine and Richard Line, also won an award at the conference for their paper, "The Impact of Relational Tactics and Strategies on Hospitality Customers' Trust and Commitment: A Canada-U.S. Comparison." This paper won the prize for Best French Paper.



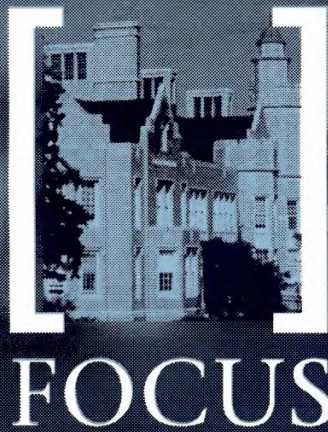
**Dr. Nichole Bennett-Bealer**, learning center assistant director and writing specialist, successfully defended her dissertation, "The Beginning of Willa Cather's European Journeys: Fourteen Travel Articles from 1902," at Drew University in Madison, N.J., this fall.



**Dr. Jean Ouédraogo**, chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, guest-edited a dossier of four articles and an introduction on Ivoirian writer Ahmadou Kourouma for Research in African Literature (38:2). He also translated an article by a contributor from Université de Montréal and presented a paper titled "Voyance et sorcellerie chez Kourouma: un trompe-l'oeil" at the International Colloquium on Le sens du social dans le roman francophone organized by Université Laval.

*To submit an entry for Faculty and Staff Showcase, please send information to Michelle Ouellette at [news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu).*





# Plattsburgh

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

FOCUS is published eight times per semester by the Office of Public Relations at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh.

**Editor:** Michelle Ouellette  
**Assistant Editor:** Gerianne Wright  
**Art Director:** Paula Trahan '85

## Spring 2008 FOCUS Schedule

Jan. 25  
 Feb. 8  
 Feb. 22  
 March 7  
 March 21  
 April 4  
 April 18  
 May 7

To submit a story idea for FOCUS, please email [news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu). Information for inclusion in the "Notebook" section must be received two weeks prior to publication date. See above fall schedule for dates.

## Institutional Advancement

Office of Public Relations  
 113 Hawkins Hall  
 518-564-2090 • 518-564-2094 (fax)  
[news@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:news@plattsburgh.edu)

## Wyeth Pledges \$200,000 to Create Scholarship at SUNY Plattsburgh

**Wyeth Pharmaceuticals and SUNY Plattsburgh have announced that the company** has made a commitment to give \$200,000 to benefit science students who hail from the North Country.

Under the agreement, Wyeth will establish the Wyeth Pharmaceuticals Endowed Scholarship for a total of \$160,000 and make a \$40,000 gift to the Plattsburgh Fund, which supports a broad range of needs across the campus located in the heart of Plattsburgh.

The Wyeth Pharmaceuticals Endowed Scholarship will help offset the cost of tuition for student recipients. Awards from the fund will benefit students majoring in biology, chemistry, biochemistry, physics and computer science. Preference will be given to North Country residents living in Clinton, Essex, Franklin and Hamilton counties; and the scholarship may be renewed for students

who remain in good academic standing.

"Although Wyeth's presence in the community will change in the future, our commitment to the community will remain. Wyeth Research and Development, through its facilities in Chazy, Rouses Point and Plattsburgh, will continue to be an active member and supporter of the North Country community," said David Champagne '84, managing director for Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in Rouses Point, N.Y., who helped facilitate the gift. "Our heritage of giving in the North Country is a source of pride for Wyeth and our employees."

"This scholarship from our friends at Wyeth will help SUNY Plattsburgh recruit and retain the brightest students who wish to study science," said President John Ettling. "For many, the assistance provided through this fund will make the dream of attending college a reality." □

## >> NOTEBOOK

- "Workplace Violence Assessment and Prevention Presentation," Thursday, Dec. 20, 8:30 to 10 a.m., Warren Ballroom, Angell College Center. This training provides techniques for detection and interruption of violence rehearsals and other red flag behaviors.
- Syracuse Symphony Concert, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 1 to 2 p.m., Hawkins Hall. Tickets available at the Center for the Arts on Brinkerhoff Street or the Angell College Center Desk.
- CSEA Defensive Driving Course, Saturday, Jan. 12, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Memorial Hall, room 303. Contact Leith Bardon at 518-564-6232.
- Adirondack Wind Ensemble Concert, Sunday, Jan. 27, 3 to 6 p.m., E. Glen Giltz Auditorium, Hawkins Hall. Concert directed by Dr. Daniel Gordon, associate professor of music.
- Partners In Cross Cultural Learning (PICL) Open House, Friday, Jan. 18, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Newman Center. Free. For more information contact Michelle St. Onge at 518-564-3270 or [picl@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:picl@plattsburgh.edu).
- Literacy Volunteers Free Tutor Orientation and Training, Jan. 28, and 30 and Feb. 4, 6 and 11, from 5:15 to 7:15 p.m. Hawkins Hall, room 052. Literacy Volunteers helps people improve their literacy skills. Hear about the organization and find out if tutoring is for you. For more information, contact Norma Menard, 518-564-5332, [menardn@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:menardn@plattsburgh.edu).